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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/048,026	03/26/1998	KANJI UCHINO	826.1482/JDH	3866

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EXAMINER

PAULA, CESAR B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

32

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/048,026

Applicant(s)

UCHINO ET AL.

Examiner

CESAR B PAULA

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,8-10,16 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,8-10,16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the RCE amendment filed on 3/26/2004.

This action is made Non-Final.

2. In the amendment, claims 1-2, 8-10, and 16-17 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 8-9, and 16-17 are independent claims.

3. The rejections of claims 1-2, 8-10, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nolan (Pat. # 5,933,599, 8/3/1999, filed on 7/17/1995), in view of Knowles et al, hereinafter Knowles (Pat. # 5,905,863, 5/18/1999, filed on 5/30/1997), and further in view of Bailey et al, hereinafter Bailey (Pat. # 5,845,084, 11/10/1998, filed on 5/1/1996) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Priority

4. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), and based on application # 09-242247 filed in Japan on 9/8/1997, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

5. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-2, 8-10, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nolan (Pat. # 5,933,599, 8/3/1999, filed on 7/17/1995), in view of Knowles et al, hereinafter Knowles (Pat. # 5,905,863, 5/18/1999, filed on 5/30/1997), and further in view of Medves, G., "LawLink: The Newsletter of the Bora Laskin Law Library Searching Lexis", <http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/lawlink/v2n7.htm>, 4/1996.

Regarding independent claim 1, Nolan discloses the display of a group of bulletin board documents where the documents contributed earlier are referenced to by documents published later (fig. 9-10, and col.2, lines 30-67). Nolan fails to explicitly disclose *determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced, and extract keywords contained in a body of a document forming part of each group of documents based on a statistical analysis by referring to document group information*. Knowles teaches the organization of bulletin board messages using various type of information, such as the subject matter of the messages, similarity of vocabulary found in the body of related messages (such as similar text contained in the body of the messages) using statistical information retrieval techniques, etc. (c.1, L.63-c.2,L.67, col.3, lines 20-64, and col. 4, lines 34-50). It would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Nolan, and Knowles, because Knowles teaches the “filtering of messages to achieve a significant level of accuracy at identifying when one message is a reply to another” (col. 3, lines 60-64), such as sorting the messages found in the bulletin board disclosed by Nolan, so as to have a high degree of similarity, thereby producing a better classified bulleting board.

Furthermore, Nolan the extraction and display of the subject—title -- of email documents posted in a bulletin board directory (col. 2, lines 30-67, and fig.9-10). Nolan fails to explicitly disclose *extract keywords contained in the body of a document, and display keywords extracted from the document corresponding to the title...the title being displayed in title-displaying field and the keywords being displayed in a keyword-displaying field*. Medves discloses the display of a list of search results in a KWIC (keyword in context) display format with the keywords in a highlighted manner (page 3, line 28-page 4, line 10). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Nolan, Knowles, and Medves, and display the title of a bulleting board messages pane with the highlighted keywords of the quoted text found in a related message, because Medves teaches above seeing the context of the keywords, and quickly determining whether the document is on target. In other words, Medves teaches, the benefit of quickly retrieving those documents, in this case bulletin board messages, which are relevant to a user’s search.

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Nolan teaches the display of a group of documents—“Gardening BBS”—in a highlighted manner (dashed rectangle box) as selected or retrieved by a user (col.11, lines 42-57, fig.9).

Regarding independent claim 8, Nolan discloses the display of a group of bulletin board documents where the documents contributed earlier are referenced to by documents published later (fig. 9-10, and col.2, lines 30-67)--*a document group analysis device to classify a plurality of documents forming a set of documents into at least one group of cross-referenced documents* Nolan fails to explicitly disclose *determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced*. Knowles teaches the organization of bulletin board messages using various type of information, such as the subject matter of the messages (c.1, L.63-c.2,L.67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Nolan, and Knowles, because Knowles teaches the “filtering of messages to achieve a significant level of accuracy at identifying when one message is a reply to another” (col. 3, lines 60-64), such as sorting the messages found in a bulletin board the type disclosed by Nolan.

Moreover, Nolan discloses the display of a group of bulletin board documents where the documents contributed earlier are referenced to by documents published later (fig. 9-10, and col.2, lines 30-67). Nolan fails to explicitly disclose *a topic analysis device to further classify each group of cross-referenced documents based on topics extracted from each document, and a topic keyword extraction device*. Knowles teaches “the filtered potential parent messages....are then passed along...The child, or reply, message...is also processed” (c.1, L.63-c.2,L.67, c. 7, L. 56-67, and c. 8, L.1-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Nolan, and Knowles, because Knowles

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teaches the “filtering of messages to achieve a significant level of accuracy at identifying when one message is a reply to another” (col. 3, lines 60-64).

Moreover, Nolan fails to explicitly teach *a topic keyword extraction device to extract keywords contained in a body of each document relevant to each topic obtained by the further classification of each of the groups of documents based on a statistical analysis by referring to document group information, and topic classification information*. Knowles teaches the organization of bulletin board messages using various type of information, such as the subject matter of the messages—*document group information*, text in the messages (quoted, unquoted)—*topic classification information*, similarity of vocabulary found in the body of related messages (such as similar text—*keywords*-- contained in the body of the messages) using statistical information retrieval techniques, etc. (c.1, L.63-c.2,L.67, col.3, lines 20-64, col. 4, lines 34-50, and col.7, lines 42-col.8, lines 1-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Nolan, and Knowles, because Knowles teaches the “filtering of messages to achieve a significant level of accuracy at identifying when one message is a reply to another” (col. 3, lines 60-64), such as sorting the messages found in the bulletin board disclosed by Nolan, so as to have a high degree of similarity, thereby producing a better classified bulleting board.

Furthermore, Nolan teaches the display of “bulletin board navigator” (col. 11, lines 43-67, and FIG. 9)--*a topic keyword display device for displayinga relevant title*. Nolan fails to explicitly disclose *display the keywords extracted from the body of each document corresponding to the title... the title being displayed in title-displaying field and the keywords being displayed in a keyword-displaying field*. Medves discloses the display of a list of search

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results in a KWIC (keyword in context) display format with the keywords in a highlighted manner (page 3, line 28-page 4, line 10). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Nolan, Knowles, and Medves, and display the title of a bulleting board messages pane with the highlighted keywords of the quoted text found in a related message, because Medves teaches above seeing the context of the keywords, and quickly determining whether the document is on target. In other words, Medves teaches, the benefit of quickly retrieving those documents, in this case bulletin board messages, which are relevant to a user's search.

Claims 9-10, 16-17 are directed towards a relevant document display method for implementing the apparatus found in claim 1-2, 8, and 1 respectively, and therefore are similarly rejected.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-2, 8-10, and 16-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Regarding claims 1-2, the applicants state that none of the references teach or suggest the extracting of keywords from the body of a document, and then displaying the extracted keywords along with the title of the document in keyword, and title fields (page 8, lines 14-21). The applicants are directed towards the rejection

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of the amended claims as outlined above, which addresses the newly introduced limitation in question.

Moreover, the applicants remarks that Bailey does not teach or suggest displaying the extracted keywords along with the title of the document in keyword, and title fields (page 9, lines 17-page 10, line 12). The applicants are directed towards the rejection of the amended claims as outlined above, which addresses the newly introduced limitation in question.

Regarding claim 8, the applicants state that the claim distinguishes over the prior art (page 11, lines 16-32). The applicants are directed towards the rejection of the amended claim as outlined above, which addresses the newly introduced limitation in question.

Regarding claims 9-10, the applicants state that the claims distinguish over the prior art (page 12, line 25). The applicants are directed towards the rejection of the amended claims as outlined above, which addresses the newly introduced limitation in question.

Regarding claim 16, the applicants state that the claim distinguishes over the prior art (page 12, lines 10--13). The applicants are directed towards the rejection of the amended claim as outlined above, which addresses the newly introduced limitation in question.

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Regarding claim 17, the applicants state that the claim distinguishes over the prior art (page 13, line 8). The applicants are directed towards the rejection of the amended claim as outlined above, which addresses the newly introduced limitation in question.

Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Borman et al. (Pat. # 6,226,655), Medline description--- <http://www.chemie.fu-berlin.de/chemistry/chemdb/stn/medline.txt>, and Nomiyama (Pat. # 5,732,260).

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (703) 306-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

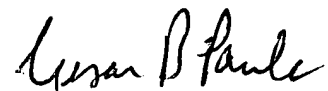
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- (703) 703-872-9306, (for all Formal communications intended for entry)

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).**



CESAR B PAULA

Patent Examiner

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6/3/04